

-15-

to be preferable to this Powder river route, and to the travel on which the Indians offered no objection, but the military had decided that the route they indicated should be kept open. The attempt to do this, kept up hostilities during the year 1867, and in the spring of 1868, in the treaty then made with the Sioux, the government agreed to, and did, abandon her posts, and close up the road on the Powder river route to Montana.

When the trouble began with the Sioux, in 1866, some of them, who desired to avoid war, and were willing to have yielded this route to our travel, came south. They visited the valley of the Republican river, in western Kansas, and thence south as far as Fort Larned. Their movements created uneasiness among the freighters on the plains, and the people in the settlements became alarmed. The military posts also became disturbed. In the fall, the traders on the Arkansas were prohibited from selling arms to the Indians.

195

The condition and temper of the Indian tribes east of the Rocky Mountains, at that time, was a natural result growing out of such affairs as Lieutenant Dunn's, at Camp Sanborn; Major Dowling's, at Cedar Bluffs; Colonel Chivington's, at Sand Creek; and General Hancock's, at Pawnee Fork; as well as other incidents of a like character, of which there were many, together with the constant aggression of the white people upon the reservations and hunting grounds of the Indians. The dispatch of General Sherman, of the 28th of December, 1866, had much to do in stimulating all who were inclined to annoy and harass the Indians. It was addressed to General Grant, and was in these words: "Just arrived (at St. Louis) in time to attend the funeral of my adjutant-general, Sawyer. I have given general instructions to General Cooke about the Sioux. I do not understand how the massacre of Colonel Fetterman's party could have been so complete. We must act with vindictive earnestness against the Sioux, even to their extermination - men, women, and children. Nothing less will reach the root of this case." All who felt